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IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 4, 5, 8, 13, 16, 18-21, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32, 37, as follows:

*A3*  
4. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the phenolic resin is selected from either resole or novolac and phenolic imide or phenolic polyamide or mixtures thereof.

*A4*  
5. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the phenolic resin is substituted with alkyl or imide.

*A4*  
8. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 where the refractory material is one or more of non-oxide refractory materials.

*A5*  
13. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of crosslinkers, polymerization promoters, catalysts, soaps, wetting agents, accelerators, hardeners and/or sources of formaldehyde.

*A6*  
16. (Amended) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder phase is selected from the group consisting of novolac-HMTA, novolac-furfuryl alcohol(FA)-HMTA, resole-novolac-HMTA, resole-carbon, resol-carbon-novolac-HMTA-FA, novolac-HMTA-FA carbon, novolac-HMTA-FA-carbon-TiB<sub>2</sub>, resole-carbon-alumina-silica, carbon-TiB<sub>2</sub> resole, imidophenol-HMTA, poly(N-(hydroxyphenyl) maleimides)-HMTA or polyimide-novolac.

*A7*  
18. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mesophase carbon is in the form of fibres, pellets, platelets or powder.

19. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mesophase carbon is 100% anisotropic mesophase derived from naphthalene.

20. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mesophase carbon is pre-treated by heating.

21. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymer or polymer composite and/or mesophase carbon are presented in the form of a solution.

*A8*  
24. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 22 wherein the solvent is water or an organic solvent.

A9

26. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein other additives known in the polymer art are included in the polymer, polymer composite and/or synthetic mesophase carbon mixture.

A10

27. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 21 wherein the mesophase carbon is combined with a solution of novolac/HMTA/FA.

A11

30. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the cured mixture is heated up to temperatures above about 800°C.

A12

32. (Amended) An article which is wholly or partly manufactured from the carbon-containing material defined in claim 1.

37. (Amended) An article as claimed in claim 32 which is used as a refractory liner in furnaces used for high temperature processing of materials.

#### REMARKS

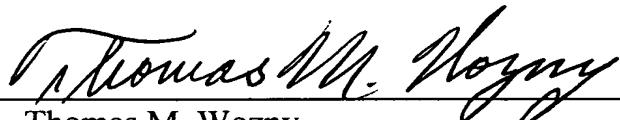
The present Preliminary Amendment is being filed in order to provide an Abstract of the Disclosure as new page 18 of the specification and to rewrite a number of the claims to eliminate their multiple dependency and to bring these claims into the proper format for U.S. prosecution.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for examination and respectfully requests same.

Respectfully submitted,

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